LIC's entry into Health Insurance Sector

*452. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India has sought entry into Health Insurance Sector;

(b) whether the IRDA has yet to clear certain regulatory issues, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to resolve the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) LIC has reported that at this stage, it has not submitted any proposal to its Board or Government seeking entry into the Health Insurance Sector.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Outsourcing of printing of currency notes and coins

*453. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a proposal to outsource printing of currency notes and coins from different countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the problem of counterfeiting has been addressed;

(d) if so, the details of measures taken in this regard;

(e) whether ensuring the security and safe delivery of print runs has been a major problem; and

(f) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Instances have come to notice of the Government pointing to Fake Indian Currency Notes. (FICN). However, FICN detected at RBI

offices and bank branches in the country is very small compared to the total volume of Indian Bank notes in circulation.

A number of steps have been taken to curb circulation of FICN in the country. These include stepping up of vigilance by the Border Security Force (BSF)/Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake notes, training of law enforcement agencies, dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media for the benefit of the public etc. Further, based on the recommendations of an Expert Committee, additional security features have been incorporated in the Indian Bank notes which will make counterfeiting very difficult. In addition, Government of India have nominated the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as the Nodal agency to monitor investigation of fake currency note cases.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Smooth management of Airports

*454. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not extended adequate cooperation to the Airports Authority of India in the matter of immigration, passenger screening etc. by various agencies like the CISF and other such agencies;

(b) to what extent has such non-cooperation resulted in poor service at airports all over the country;

(c) whether Government would hold meetings with the Airports Authority of India to find solutions to routine problems of the day; and

(d) the reasons for not putting in place a modern and accountable system to help smooth management of all airports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: (a) to (c) Government and its agencies have been extending all possible co-operation to Airports Authority of India (AAI) in the matter of smooth operations at airports. Towards this end,